

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 AID-05 OMB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-05 /074 W

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P R 141055Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1745

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 857

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES

FEBRUARY 13, 1975

1. DURING MY COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES LAST WEEK HE GAVE ME A LIST OF QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR AID PROGRAM. QUESTIONS DEALT WITH SUCH MATTERS AS HOW MUCH MONEY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT (THERE IS WIDESPREAD CONFUSION HERE ON THAT SCORE), INTEREST RATES, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, USE OF AZORES AGREEMENT MONEY AND MAP FUNDS.

2. LAST NIGHT (FEBRUARY 13) I DELIVERED REPLY AND DISCUSSED CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM WITH HIM. GONCALVES READ THE PAPER IN MY PRESENCE AND GRASPED THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE SUBJECT WITH CONSIDERABLE ALACRITY. HE ALSO DISPLAYED GREAT INTEREST, UNDERLINING KEY POINTS AND ASKING INTELLIGENT QUESTIONS.

3. I EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF QUICK ACTION ON THE \$10 MILLION IF WE ARE TO PERSUADE THE CONGRESS TO VOTE THE ADDITIONAL \$15 MILLION. ALSO URGED HIM TO MAKE A DECISION ON DIVISION OF FUNDS BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND AFRICAN COLONIES. GAVE HIM LANGUAGE OF SECTION 496 OF FAA ACT EXPRESSING CONGRESSIONAL INTENT ON
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THIS LATTER POINT.

4. GONCALVES SAID OUR PAPER HAD CLARIFIED HIS POINTS OF CONCERN AND HE UNDERSTOOD NEED FOR SPEED. WE ARE ALSO PRESSING MINISTER OF FINANCE AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PLANNING FOR EARLY ACTION. LATTER TOLD US THAT U.S. AID PROGRAM ON COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 18.

5. I RECOGNIZE THE CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM FACING AID AND THE DEPARTMENT BUT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DAMAGING TO OUR OVERALL POLICY OBJECTIVES HERE WERE WE TO DECIDE ON A PROGRAM UNILATERALLY AND DICTATE IT TO GOP IN ORDER TO MEET CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES AFTER WE HAVE TOLD GOP WE WANT TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THEIR PRIORITIES. I AM CONFIDENT THAT WORKING WITH GOP WE CAN COME UP TOGETHER SOON WITH A SOUND PROGRAM FOR WHICH \$25 MILLION CAN BE OBLIGATED PRODUCTIVELY THIS FISCAL YEAR. IF DEPARTMENT THINKS IT USEFUL I AM PREPARED TO RETURN AND ASSIST IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE WITH THE CONGRESS, EITHER INFORMALLY OR IN HEARINGS. ALTERNATIVELY WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO PERSUADE A MEMBER OR A STAFF PERSON TO COME HERE FOR AN ON-THE-SCENE BRIEFING?

6. COPIES OF QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS BEING POUCHED TO EUR/IB. CARLUCCI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: johnsorg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LISBON00857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750054-0488
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750242/aaaablqf.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: johnsorg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <08 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES FEBRUARY 13, 1975
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO, US, (GONCALVES, VASCO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006